

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

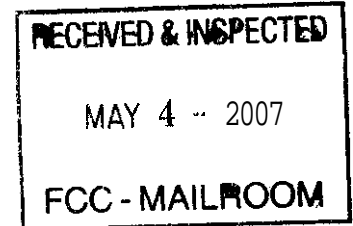


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STATE OF ALABAMA

May 3, 2007



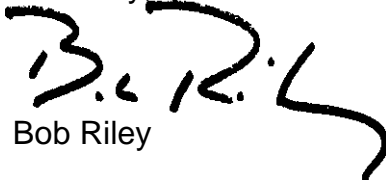
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
c/o Natek, Inc.
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The State of Alabama is pleased to submit the enclosed application to develop a statewide network for rural health projects in Alabama. This project will allow us to conduct a complete survey of all hospitals in the state and coordinate regional efforts to design a statewide telecommunications network for rural health projects.

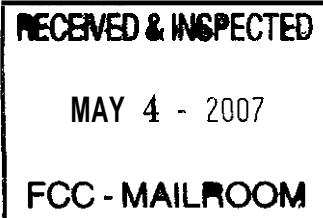
The planning and design phase is expected to cost \$107,383 and will be implemented by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs – Energy, Weatherization and Technology (ADECA-EWT) Division.

Sincerely,


Bob Riley

BR:BJ:nb

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**FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program
WC Docket No. 02-60**

Applicant: Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Contact: Ned Butler
Ned.Butler@adeca.alabama.gov
(334) 242-5474

Alabama Rural Health Network

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) requests \$91,275 to conduct a complete survey of all hospitals in the state and coordinate regional efforts to design a statewide broadband telecommunications network for rural health projects. This initiative is expected to cost \$107,383 and will be implemented by the ADECA Energy, Weatherization and Technology (EWT) Division. ADECA will provide \$16,108 in state funds for the 12 month project.

As a part of the Alabama Governor's Office, ADECA provides planning services and administers programs that provide vital resources to meet economic and community development needs throughout the state. ADECA will be legally and financially responsible for the conduct of the activities supported by the requested grant funds.

Goals and Objectives

The ultimate goal of this project is the establishment of a statewide broadband telecommunications network for telehealth and telemedicine in Alabama. Several regions in the state are currently submitting separate applications to develop regional telehealth networks. Our objective is to work with the Alabama Department of Rural Health and each of these regions in a coordinated effort to tie the regional networks into a comprehensive statewide system.

Participants

The following entities have committed to participate in the statewide network:

Pickens County Medical Center (public, non-profit), 241 Robert K. Wilson Drive, Carrollton, AL 35447, RUCA Code #10.0, (205) 367-8111

Fayette Medical Center (public, non-profit), 1653 Temple Avenue N., Fayette, AL 35555, RUCA Code #7.0, (205) 932-1104

DCH Regional Medical Center (public, non-profit), 809 University Blvd. E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401, RUCA Code #1.0, (205) 759-7111

Other entities will be identified and recruited during the hospital and clinic survey and needs assessment. For-profit clinics and hospitals will be invited to participate in the system and will be responsible for a prorated share of the network expense.

Project Leadership – Ned Butler will serve as Project Director for this effort. Mr. Butler has extensive experience in the design and development of broadband telecommunications systems. He was instrumental in coordinating with the Appalachian Regional Commission to design and develop a comprehensive countywide fiber optic network in Pickens County. This network connects all of the county schools with fiber, providing full motion (non-compressed) video plus a 100MB connection for internet and data. A telemedicine program offers full motion video from the hospital to the county jail providing doctor/patient consultations for inmates. This same system also connects the jail to the judges' chambers and is used for video arraignment enabling the judge to see the incarcerated person in full motion video thus not requiring the deputies to transfer inmates to the courthouse. In addition, high speed internet is provided to all city, county, state, and federal offices in the county; and is used to promote economic development.

Work Plan

1. Hospital Needs Assessment - Visits will be made to all hospitals in the state to provide information and solicit their participation in the statewide network. Information on individual facility needs and possible network applications will be collected and analyzed.
2. Infrastructure Assessment – Broadband providers throughout the state will be contacted and information will be gathered to evaluate existing infrastructure.
3. System Design – Collaboration with regional efforts and information gathered from the hospital needs assessment and the infrastructure evaluation will be used to develop a comprehensive statewide telehealth network.

Timeline

Tasks	Months											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hospital needs assessment												
Infrastructure assessment												
System design												
Complete final report												

Budget

	Grant funds	Match	Total
Personnel	\$ 18,421	\$16,108	\$ 34,529
Fringe benefits	9,323		9,323
Travel	15,000		15,000
Contractual	45,000		45,000
Indirect costs	3,380		3,380
Total Project cost	\$91,275	\$16,108	\$107,383

Regional Coordination

ADECA-EWT will coordinate with Alabama's 12 Regional Planning Councils in the planning and development of this comprehensive statewide telehealth system.

Sustainability

Once the statewide system design is complete, additional funds will be sought from state and federal sources to implement the statewide network. Participating health entities will cost share in this effort.